

CRF

Your truly
R. G. McLean
1803 - 15 Ave.
Lethbridge, Ab.

630-EIGHTH AVENUE, S.W. CALGARY
RED DEER—4712 ROSS ST.
LETHBRIDGE—618 3rd AVE., S.

BACKED BY FIFTY YEARS EXPERIENCE | ☐ Have Representative Call

4 H Conference

ton, D.C., is Lloyd Hamilton, of Penhold. Before his departure for Washington Lloyd visited Premier E.C. Manning in his office at the Legislative Building in Edmonton, along with officials of the Department of Agriculture. Above, left to right, are Mrs. Louise McGill, Associate Supervisor of 4-H Clubs for Alberta, who is one of two Canadian 4-H officials who will accompany the delegates; Premier Manning; Lloyd Hamilton; and C.L. L'her, Supervisor of 4-Club of Alberta.

Auctioneer for the occasion will be the well-known Herb Sept, of Sept's Auction Service. Chairman is Al Braden, of the Drayton Valley Rotary Club. For a more complete list of articles to be auctioned turn to page 12.

Branches at:

● LETHBRIDGE,	● WILLINGDON,
● CAMROSE,	● TWO HILLS

Auctioneer for the occasion will be the well-known Herb Sept, of Sept's Auction Service. Chairman is Al Braden, of the Drayton Valley Rotary Club. For a more complete list of articles to be auctioned turn to page 12.

Qualified male and female staff will provide instruction in playground activities, camping techniques, and for combined sessions on the principles of leadership, leaders in recreation, first aid,

Report cards next week, I hear... The latest sign of spring... Snow



ALBERTA GAS UTILITIES LIMITED
Your investor-owned gas utility serving Albertans since 1923

89¢ PAIR

11-10-1961

TY STORE

1.37 pr.

99¢ PAIR

FRANK J. TARTAGLIA STONE

SIZE 6 - 10
99¢ PAIR

FRANK J. TARTAGLIA STONE

Edmonton Chamber to try out

DRAWDRAPES

LINED - PLASTIC
2 PANELS
54" x WIDE x 86" LONG

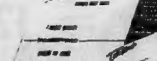
• \$4.99

2 PANELS
27" WIDE x 54" LONG

\$1.99

2 PANELS
36" WIDE x 48" LONG

\$1.30



SHEETS

TEXMADE - 72-100 or

81-100

\$2.99

PILLOW CASES

TEXMADE - Matching

\$1.37 pr.

LITTLE GIRLS RUNNERS

SIZE 6 - 10

99c PAIR

TOWN COUNCIL

(Cont. from Page 1, Col. 3)

W. L. Krause moved that Council authorize Karl Wahl to chair the committee to find out how many trees are required for parks, local roads, etc., this year and order them as required. Carried.

K. W. Wahl moved that Council authorize the moving in of the Multiple Housing Units contained in application submitted by Hudson Bros for development on Lots 21 and 22, Block 14 and Plan 170 N.S. Carried.

Following the submission of letters from the Division of Motor Vehicles for the use of the club of vehicles by Police Chief Mr. H. Zolmer, Mr. Zolmer moved that Council authorize the purchase of a red buson say light vehicle to operate from the daily back window rack be roof of the police vehicle. Carried.

The letter from George Lafibre, A.P. regarding lotteries was read and considered by Council and answered for return to the initiator. Mr. Zolmer moved that Council direct that the changes for paving and storm sewers be allocated on the basis of 60% local improvement and 40% Town at large with particular attention to paving projects on paving of 10th avenue and 60th Street and storm sewers on 50th Street. Carried.

George Nauman, the Engineer, went over the proposed plan of V.I.A. small building lot in the NW1/4 Sec. 9-49-7-W, 6 along the west side of the creek, following which Council recommended that this plan be submitted to Town and Rural Planning Board for their comments and suggestions and the Engineer's report be accepted for filing. Carried.

Karl W. Wahl moved that Council

authorize the installation of two chimneys at the entrance to the new elementary school and grade entrance ways. Carried.

Mr. Maddock and Kevin Goble attended the council meeting on behalf of the Steady Plains School Division and made request to the town school trustees to have the school entrance grade of 10th Avenue installed at the New Elementary School entrance. They also gave some indication of what may occur re teacher requirements due to the installation of New Elementary School. They did mention the normal rate of teacher salary over at being about 20% Mr. Maddock pointed out that if all scholars the Division could be filled at Drayton Valley schools, then the Division could probably carry on within the grants money of the Foundation program.

Karl Wahl moved that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

A small boy asked his father around the house to replenish his finances. The father assured him that he could think of nothing. "Then," suggested the modern child, "how about putting me on relief?"

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: Mr. Wahl moved that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

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SCOOPI NOTEBOOK

(Cont. from "A" Col. 3)

Visiting with his home folks a Cornwell, Ontario to L'Ange "Wall Services" MacLean.

Someone asked in the other day if we believe in transmigration. Answer Yes... I accept women as People.

And who do you think we meet the other day? ...None other than the head-stone Mrs. Susan Campbell, now and Donna had just returned from Honesymooning.

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DRAYTON VALLEY

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PEMBINA NEWS ADVERTISER

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Over 65?

\$200 a month can be yours for life!

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DOT'S JOTS

First things first, and before we get all involved here, one little item in last week's jots must be corrected. It would seem that Alex Grant has not been dragging his feet after all. No, time. As a matter of fact, one might even say that Alex is a right high - nigger. Why did you know? -- he has been engaged since last December. And did you know that the wedding date is set for July 11th. The lucky young lady's name is Mary Jane Grant, of Transport in Winnipeg by name of Ruth Jones. (which also explains all those mysterious wedding jots to Winnipeg). Just down to go you - you never can tell about these things, it's true.

And speaking of wedding jots, the Meites have just returned from a quick trip to Saskatchewan. We might say they went to gaze upon the sunbather on those patios - but we won't. We also might say the purpose of the trip was to check to see how much of Saskatchewan drifted into Alberta with the last big blow - but we won't. (All for rather obvious reasons. No, instead we'll tell you the real reason for the trip was to visit relatives and personally congratulate Addison's brother on the opening of his hotel recently in Yonka, Sask.

So how about that certain editor of a certain local newspaper - did you see the lovely lady he was escorting about town on Sun-

day? Of course, he is playing it coy and won't tell who, whence or what, but given a little time and courage, we'll be able to tell who she is.

Don't be alarmed if you should happen to see Ted Macdonald about shaking his head and mumbling to himself. It really isn't a case of the main course having sprung - He's just trying to figure out how these Ontario types can show such unbelievable faith in the Toronto Maple Leafs and be right - not once, but twice. However, we'll have to give him his dues and admit he paid off his debt in legal tender though to barely recognizable as legal tender as to be barely legal.

Wrong again! Evidently Jill Baker and Marcella Dixon weren't quite all caught up on their "Girl Talk" after all, because Jill was in Drayton Valley again for the week end. Of course, the Spring Prom just may have had something to do with Jill's return too. By-the-way girls, the way we heard it, all that talk week-end-before-last wasn't necessarily about "Girls Could this be true?"

Noting the Spring Bath of school boys, can't help but wonder if one day in the city watching the line-up at the unemployment insurance Commission might carry more impact than several million words on why our youth should not only remain in school but also apply themselves to their studies?

A few words of consolation for all those who have dug deep to meet the tally on the Income Tax Returns (These people are easily identified), as they are all appearing with pockets turned inside out.

It's better to live rich than to die rich. To have what we want is riches, but to be able to do without it, power.

You never could take your money with you, but one can remember when the government would let you have some while you were still here.

Some people think they are worth a lot of money because they have it.

Modern Etiquette

Q. When a girl is an overnight guest in a home where there is no maid, is she expected to strip her bed in the morning before leaving, or should she leave it as is?

A. She can ask her hostess which she prefers. If she has time, she can ask her hostess for clean sheets and make up the bed herself in order to save her hostess the work.

Q. Is it necessary for a bride-elect to reply to notes she has received expressing good wishes from her friends who have seen the announcement of her engagement in the newspaper?

A. While not necessary to write notes, she may phone them, and most certainly she should thank all those whom she meets.

Q. When a husband and wife are entertaining another couple at a dinner in their home, who pulls out whose chair when being seated at the table?

A. It is customary for the host to pull out the chair for the visiting woman, and the male guest to perform the courtesy for the hostess.

Cardium THEATRE DRAYTON VALLEY

ONE SHOW DAILY AT 8 P.M. MATINEES 2:15 P.M.

Fri. May 1 - "MY SON THE HERO" Color.
Sat. May 2 - "COME FLY WITH ME" Debra Hart, Hugh O'Brien, Color.
Mon. May 4 - "COME FLY WITH ME" Debra Hart, Hugh O'Brien, Color.
Wed. May 5 - "SOMETHING WILD" Carol Baker, Ralph Meeker.
Thu. May 7 - "MAY SIX LOVES" Debbie Reynolds, Cliff Robertson, Color.
Fri. May 8 - "MY SIX LOVES" Debbie Reynolds, Cliff Robertson, Color.

YOUR FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE.

PH: 542 - 3058

VALLEY VALET

YOUR DRAYTON VALLEY DRY CLEANERS, L. Bernard, Mgr.

Drayton Speedwash

SELF - SERVE COIN - OPERATED LAUNDRY
OPEN 8 A.M. TO 11 P.M. 7 DAYS PER WEEK.

OUR BIRTHDAY SALE CONTINUES

BETTERBUY MARGARINE 4 1 LB. PKGS. 89c
LETTUCE 12 for 35c
PEAS CORN 8 \$1.00
ICE CREAM 1/2 gal. 79c
WIENERS lb. 39c
SIDE BACON PIECES lb. 55c

NEW CARROTS 3 lb. 35c
TOMATO JUICE LIBBY'S 48 OZ. 2 FOR 79c
PORK CHOPS lb. 59c
SOUP MIX LIPTON'S CHICKEN NOODLE 8 \$1.00

BLEACH 69c
PICKLES 89c
ICE CREAM 1/2 gal. 79c
WIENERS lb. 39c
SIDE BACON PIECES lb. 55c

PEANUT BUTTER GOLDEN NUT 48 OZ. 79c
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ALBERTA MOTOR ASSOCIATION

The Edmonton branch of the Alberta Motor Association is again asking for the co-operation of the residents of the Drayton

Valley District in the erection or replacement of directional signs in your Community. Any person living in the community who is aware of the need of a sign in his district, should advise the Alberta Motor Association (Editor: Please help us to help you.

too) of the location for such a sign by June 1st of this year, so that the A.M.A. road signing crew will be able to include it in the 1984 signing program.

Address Correspondence to: Mr. A.R. Goshen, Manager, Safety & Driver Education, Alberta Motor Association, 1008 13 Ave. and Kingsway, Edmonton, Alberta.

Schoolmaster: Now, Willie, if the earth is as an imaginary line, can you hang clothes on it? Willie: Yes Sir. Schoolmaster: Yes, Sir. That's good. And what sort of clothes? Willie: Imaginary clothes, Sir.

TRADE 'N' TRAVEL TIME!

at your Chevrolet-Oldsmobile Dealer's Now!

8 GREAT NAMES TO CHOOSE FROM!

- The greatest choice of models!
- A complete range of colors, options and accessories!
- Immediate delivery on most models!
- The best price for your trade-in!

Yes sir, Trade 'n' Travel Time is here... springtime, open road time, go-out-and-have-yourself-a-ball time. It's the time when your Chevrolet-Oldsmobile dealer offers top dollar for your trade-in, because he needs good used cars. And he's giving immediate delivery on most new cars. If that isn't reason enough to visit your Chev-Olds dealer during Trade 'n' Travel Time, just take a look at the line-up below of the greatest car names in Canada. Best allowances! Best delivery! Best cars! Come in today!



DEAL NOW! TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR TRADE-IN! IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ON MOST MODELS!

Be sure to see Buick on the CBC-TV network each Sunday. Check your local listing for channel and time.

AUTHORIZED DEALER IN BRITON

MCCARTNEY BROTHERS LTD. Briton, Alta.

TRADE 'N' TRAVEL TIME

8 GREAT NAMES TO CHOOSE FROM
AT YOUR CHEVROLET-OLDSMOBILE DEALER'S COMPLETE AUTO CENTRE



ROTARY AUCTION

DOWNTOWN
DRAYTON VALLEY

SATURDAY MAY 9
SELLING



- 1 1960 CHEVROLET AUTOMOBIL - Good working order
- 1 Used VIKING WRINGER WASHER - Good condition large tub & pump
- 1 Used HYDO-SWIRL WRINGER WASHER - Good condition square tub gives easy storing
- 1 Used WESTINGHOUSE GAS WASHER
- 1 Used BEATTY WRINGER WASHER
- 1 Used PRIGGS WRINGER WASHER
- 1 Used INGILLS CITATION AUTOMATIC WASHER - 2 speeds - 3 Cycles - Dispenser Filter
- 1 1961 model in excellent condition - original cost \$409.95
- 1 Used INGLIS SUPRE GAS DRYER - Excellent condition - 4 cycle selection can be with propane or natural gas. 1961 model original price \$289.95
- 1 Used DOMINION AUTOMATIC DRYER - Good working order, large capacity drum.
- 1 Used GURNEY WOOD STOVE CONVERTED TO PROPANE - Good sized oven. Large warming cupboards, hot water well.
- 1 Used SUPRE CROSBY T.V. in working order
- 1 Used RCA VICTOR T.V. with stand. In working order
- 1 Used WESTINGHOUSE T.V. - good condition - just overhauled
- 1 Used VIKING RADIO RECORD PLAYER COMBINATION - 3 speed record player
- 1 Good condition
- 1 Used MOTOROLA CONSOLE T.V. new picture tube guaranteed one year.
- 1 Just overhauled.
- 1 Used CHROME TABLE with folding side flaps
- 1 Used REMINGTON CHAIN SAW - good working order - ideal for those jobs around the farm
- 1 New 3600 BTU COLEMAN GAS WALL HEATER - never used. acw price 170.95
- 1 Used 24" GAS STOVE - well looked after and in good condition
- 1 Used 17 Cubic Ft. CHEST TYPE DEEP FREEZE - Ben Hur deluxe model - in good condition and well looked after
- 1 Used 12 Cubic Ft. CHEST TYPE DEEP FREEZE - Working order
- 1 New STUDY CHILDREN WAGON (retail value \$17.95)
- 1 PACKAGES OF GACOMINE
- 1 PLATIC LAUNDRY BASKETS - New
- 1 PAIR PRUNING SHEARS - New
- 1 New BELL & HOWELL CARRYING CASE
- 1 New STUFFED BAG & DOLL SEWING KITS
- 1 POLAROID CARRYING CASE - New
- 1 New UNIVERSAL FLASH GUN
- 1 New ANSCO FLASH GUNS
- 1 PHOTO ALBUMS
- 1 MOVIE TITLER KIT
- 1 MARKING SET
- 1 MONROE MOVIE TITLER
- 1 NEW BARS IN TOTLAND KITS
- 1 TINS "WHIZ" AUTO POLISH
- 1 17" TINS "TOPS ALL" ALL PURPOSE CLEANER
- 1 BERNZ - O - Matic FUEL TANK
- 1 CIRCUS CYCLES - New



AND MANY MORE ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION
SALE TIME 1:30 P.M.

SEPT'S AUCTION SERVICE

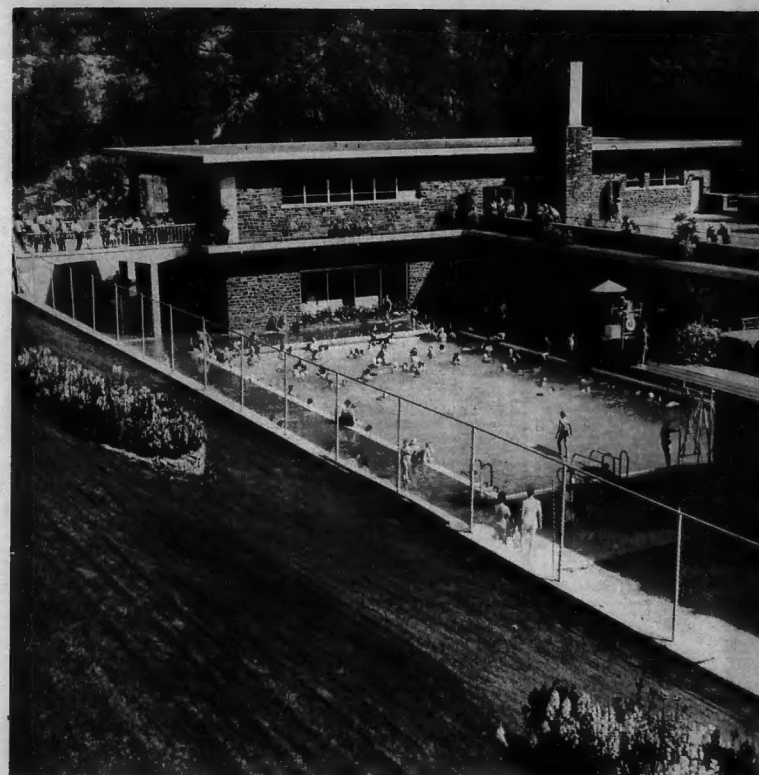
Herb Sept. Lic. No. 273

THE WESTERN WEEKLY

Vol. 2, No. 40, Second Section

DRAYTON VALLEY - PEBBLES NEWS

April 29, 1964



Helping to Build The Booming West

WESTERN WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

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Jack Kelly
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Ponoka, Alberta.

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Box 649, Ponoka, Alberta.

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The Alberta Building
830 - 10th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alta.

All Over The Map

The manatee owes its protection in Florida to a tongue-twisting scientific name, *Trichechus latirostris*. When the state legislature was considering a bill to outlaw killing of the ungainly water-dwelling mammal, a senator rose and said: "If there is a beast with any such name in the State of Florida, it ought to be protected." It was.

Carthage, one of the great cities of the ancient world, had a peak population of a million inhabitants more than three centuries before Christ.

More than 3,500 years ago, a writer in what is now Iraq inscribed this proverb on a clay tablet: "You can have a lord, you can have a king, but the man to fear is the tax collector."

Wood is used for making whiskey. The golden coloring of whiskey comes from the wood sugar and tannins extracted from the wood during the aging process.

Though Finland's population numbers only 4,500,000 people, they support 225 newspapers.

Quite contrary to widely held belief, the evergreen forest, the wilderness, does not provide ideal game habitat. Wilderness is light, it is incapable of supporting the variety of small plants used as food by most desirable types of wildlife. For example, it is estimated today that the deer population in the Eastern, Southern and Northwestern sections of the United States and in Eastern Canada is markedly higher than when the first settlers came to our virgin wilderness. Favorable changes in habitat have resulted from man's opening up of these forests.

Page Two

No Love for Tax Collectors

The "blue men" near Timbuktu deal directly with tax problems. Some of these nomads of the Sahara reacted to a new cattle duty by shooting the tax collectors.

The recent incident mushroomed into a full-scale revolt against the Mali Government. During the last five months, camel-riding rebels have managed to tie up half the Mali army with hit-and-run guerrilla fighting and lightning night raids.

Hard-riding Tuareg "blue men" terrorized the Sahara long before Mali was a modern republic in western Africa, the National Geographic Society says. The tall warriors of the medieval empire of Mali raided caravans and plundered cases on their fleet-footed Meharah camels.

LIVES BECAME PASTORAL

Pacified under French colonial rule, Tuaregs turned to herding cattle, goats, and sheep on the pastures fringing the desert. They dig salt to exchange for millet, tea, and sugar.

But the Tuaregs still count their wealth in camels. A 50-camel herd is very rich.

Today, an estimated half-million Tuaregs roam the mountains and plains of the central and southern Sahara, ignoring frontiers. They are divided into five great clans, speak their own language, and accept the tenets of Islam.

Tuareg "blue men" derive their name from the indigo dye of their clothes which smudges off and stains their near-white skin.

Surprisingly, only the men wear veils. They wrap long lengths of blue cloth around their shoulders and faces. To add to the effect, the

men dash blue paint on the rims and lashes of their eyes. A man seldom reveals his face, even to a blood brother.

Tuareg women tattoo their bodies, wear long silver earrings, and wand off evil with charm necklaces.

Fet societies give more freedom and respect to women. Tuareg women regard themselves as men's equals, marry at will, speak in council, even serve as heads of encampments. Wives hold property, go where they please, teach, and govern the home.

Tuareg means "hot soul," a name given the tribesmen by their traditional enemies, the Arabs. The Tuaregs call themselves Imochagh, or the "Free Ones."

PART OF BERBER FAMILY

A Hamitic people, the Tuaregs generally are regarded as a part of the more sedentary Berbers of North Africa. The early history of the over-all family is unknown. One theory holds that the ancestors of these present-day inhabitants of western deserts and mountain villages originally wandered from Egypt.

The theory was strengthened in 1963 when a Tuareg-born official of the Niger Republic visited Egypt and was shown a 3,000-year-old sarcophagus bearing a hieroglyphic inscription. Though the hieroglyphs stumped linguists for centuries and were decoded only in 1922 after years of study of the Rosetta Stone, the visitor, Moudouar Zakara, understood the old inscription at a glance.

Zakara explained that the ancient hieroglyphs were similar to the characters used in the writing of his Tuareg tribe.

or among tree rooks. They forage for food in daylight, eating mostly carrion. Their daring yellow tongues apparently help sniff out such wild prey as boar, deer, and monkey.

The sharp, saw-edged teeth of the big lizards can rip a goat in half with a single snap. Large monitors may even gulp down the hind-quarters of a boar—hoofs, hide, hams, backbone, and all. They often sleep a week after a big meal to allow the digestive juices to do a proper job.

Though ferocious, Komodo dragons have been tamed. At the London Zoo, two of them used to take afternoon walks with their keeper.

In the Far East, a thief reportedly used the strong-jawed reptiles in housebreaking. He tied a rope around the dragon's neck, threw it over the wall, and then climbed up the rope when he was sure the dragon had a tight bite on something solid.

UNKNOWN UNTIL 1912

Surprisingly, the world's largest lizard is among the world's least-known and most recently discovered big animals. Komodo lizards were unknown to the scientific world until 1912 when a Dutch scientist, Major P. A. Quoy, brought back five specimens to zoos in America and Europe.

Virtually nothing was known of the reptile's habits until W. Douglas Burden organized an expedition for the American Museum of Natural History in 1926. Mr. Burden's illustrated report, "Stalking the Dragon Lizard on the Island of Komodo," was featured in the April, 1927 issue of National Geographic Magazine.

Western Weekly Supplement — Wednesday, April 29, 1964

Along Nature's Trails

By W. Phillip Keller

Ally or Pest? Marsh Hawk Subject of Many Arguments



Of all the hawks throughout the west, perhaps none is so well known or familiar as the Marsh Hawk. It is the hawk that is to be seen soaring over the stubble fields, across the marshes, over the open grasslands of the foothills and even above timberline on the mountain alps.

It is the easiest hawk for the novice to identify because of the unmistakable white patch that is so conspicuous just at the base of the tail. Then, too, except during migration, it is found only in open country. Here it flies low over the ground in its eternal search for prey.

The only problem in identification that might confuse anyone not familiar with this bold bird is the difference between males and females. The male carries ash grey plumage above, almost white beneath. The older the bird, the lighter it becomes in colour. The female is a dusky brown with dark blotches above, shading off to a tawny tone on the underparts.

FASCINATING STUDY

This hawk, because of its large size and wide distribution adds a great deal of interest to our western scene. For anyone who has an interest in the out-of-doors the sight of these strong fliers drifting across the countryside is something to be studied with fascination. I have never felt these birds had either the grace, speed or poise of some other hawks. But by the same measure they are in a class apart when it comes to dextrous flying in tricky air currents close to the ground. Moreover, they are amongst the most acrobatic and agile in flight of all our birds of prey.

I have always thought of the Marsh Hawk as a ground hugging bird. He flies close to the ground, generally only a few feet above it; he nests on the ground or at least only a few inches above it; he roosts on the ground when his wings are weary; he even prefers to roost on the ground at night in some little sheltered spot to which he returns after night.

The name, 'Marsh Hawk' is not altogether appropriate. In Europe this bird is referred to as the 'Harrier' which would be a more fitting title because of his insatiable hunting instincts. Nor is the bird confined only to marshy ground. Marsh Hawks may be found in any open country and likewise their nests are located in either dry or boggy terrain.

Generally the nest is a crude structure of straw, sticks, weeds, grass and feathers built on a heap of grass or reeds just a few inches above the water in a marsh. Or it may be perched amid some low brush, boulders or broken ground on a dry hillside. Some of these nests may be located several miles from the nearest marsh if the site suits the mating pair.

FANTASTIC EXHIBITION

During the mating season in spring the male birds go into a fantastic courting display. This frenzied flight is best demonstrated by a whole series of capital U's like this UUUUUUU. The bird climbs vertically into the sky, then plunges down to swoop up again gracefully. At the apex of each upward thrust it may turn a complete somersault before executing the next daring dive toward its enchanted mate.

Western Weekly Supplement — Wednesday, April 29, 1964

on the ground. A really ambitious snort will make as many as sixty or seventy of these aerial turns in rapid succession for the sake of his admiring mate. This is off of the finest courting ceremonies in the bird world.

In the construction or repair of an old nest preparatory to the laying of the eggs, it is the female which does most of the work. She will carry the majority of the nesting material, although now and again the male bird dutifully drags in a few stray straws or sticks as his contribution. Often he simply 'drops' these to his mate as she works on the structure.

Generally about four eggs are laid. Some nests have been found with as many as eight or nine eggs. These hatch out in about three weeks, and the fledglings are off to a brave start in a new world.

At first the parents pack soft insects or tender portions of predigested meat into the gaping gullets of the young. As they grow stronger a mouse or vole will be brought to the nest where the young birds have the delight of tearing off the choice parts for themselves. The adults then devour the hard, coarse remains.

CLEAN HOUSEKEEPER

The Marsh Hawk keeps its nest and surroundings remarkably free of debris and excreta of every kind. It is difficult to discover what the birds are eating merely by examining the material left around the brood.

The young birds grow at an astounding rate. The baby down is soon replaced by full feathering and in the incredible time of about five weeks from hatching they are beginning to fly clumsily. At first these initial flights are a laboured flapping that carries them only a few yards into the grass where they sink down heavily. But with practice and persistence they soon become fairly proficient with their wings. In spite of this early start the young Marsh Hawk never fully masters the acrobatics of the adult birds until almost a year old. In fact their flights on the first fall migrations are erratic and unpredictable.

When the young hawks are fairly efficient on their wings the parent birds prefer to feed them in flight. It is an amazing sight to see a mature bird come winging in over the nest, while three or four young ones rise to meet it. The mouse or insect clutched in the claws is dropped in mid air. The young ones twist and turn to take it before it has fallen more than a few feet.

There is a considerable degree of controversy over the hunting habits of the Marsh Hawk. Some authorities regard this bird as one of the most beneficial to be found anywhere on the continent because of their destruction of mice, rats, insects and other injurious small mammals.

There can be no doubt whatever that on the open prairies and in the grain-growing areas the usefulness of this bird is beyond calculation. He is a 'mouse' par excellence. No other hawk can match him in this role. Probably hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of

grain crops are saved from mice each year because of these birds.

On the other side of the ledger he has written a red record of doubtful deeds in plundering and killing other nesting birds. These range all the way from sparrows to grouse, quail, ducks and pheasants.

Major Allan Brooks, the noted ornithologist and world famous bird painter from British Columbia made this statement that — "The Marsh Hawk is the most destructive hawk in all America to our marsh loving water fowl, for at least three months of the year." The toll taken of both eggs young and adults of other bird species that share their habitat is one of the black marks against the Marsh Hawk.

Part of this can be explained by the rather formidable, fearless courage of these birds. They will not hesitate to attack and even strike a man if he molests their nests. This is something even an eagle will not do, in spite of all the articles and stories written to the contrary.

Because of their cold courage these birds will tackle almost anything that flies or intrudes into their territory. Last fall I watched a female hawk quartering a small creek on the prairie. She dropped and flushed a cock pheasant from cover. Relentlessly she harassed him across the fields, through the underbrush and along the creek. He was tiring rapidly as she kept pouncing on him every time he broke cover. Finally the two disappeared behind a little knoll where I was positioned and she perched on a branch.

Some observers claim that these hawks are most cruel in their method of killing other birds. Instead of striking a prompt death blow, they prefer to tease and 'play' with their quarry, actually tearing flesh from the living bird.

On the contrary I have read an account of two of these hawks that were raised in captivity. Their owner claimed they would perch peacefully in a tree where other small birds roosted near them without any fear whatever. This of course may have been because they were well fed by their owner and the vicious hunting urge of hunger was missing. The owner of these birds again and again conducted experiments with small pieces of meat to test their night. Evidently they could readily identify a cube of meat 1 inch in size in the grass at more than 150 yards distance. Little wonder they can so readily spot mice, grasshoppers or other small birds that move on the ground below their outstretched wings.

In appraising these birds fairly I believe we must view them against the background of their surroundings and habitat. Where they make their food lies in the farmers' fields which they clear of insects, mice, rats, starlings and blackbirds these birds are valuable allies. Where they are scourge to the marshlands; destroying ducks, eggs and other beneficial birds they become a pest.

As long as Marsh Hawks sail low over our sprawling countryside they will be debated. One thing, though, that cannot be denied, is that their rushing, surging, tilting wings that carry them so cunningly on our western winds are a proud, pulsing part of our out-door world. (Copyright 1964, by O. W. Phillip Keller)

Page Three

